

Appl. No. 09/521,235
Office Action mailed October 20, 2005
Amendment transmitted January 20, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 10022/112

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 15, and 17-28 are pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing previous rejections of the claims over de l'Etraz, U.S. Pat. No. 6,324,541. Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 15, and 17-28 are now rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,141 to Jeffrey Bezos et al. ("Bezos") and other cited art.

2. Claims 11, 17, and 18 are objected to. Claims 11, 17, and 18 have been amended to overcome the objections. Support for the amendments is found in the claims as filed.

3. Independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,141 to Jeffrey Bezos et al. ("Bezos"). Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11, 15, 17-19, and 21-27 are also rejected over Bezos. Applicants traverse the rejection, because Bezos does not teach or suggest all the limitations of these claims.

Bezos does not teach or suggest a computer-implemented method for developing a dossier for a proposal, and does not teach or suggest at least the steps of: presenting on a computer-user interface a list of industries associated with a client; allowing selection of an industry from the list of industries; searching in a plurality of computer-readable knowledge repositories for information relating to the client and the selected industry; and preparing the dossier which further comprises information concerning experienced people, prior documents, and past projects pertaining to the proposal.

Bezos does not teach or suggest "an industry" or "a list of industries"

The rejection cites Bezos, in the section beginning on col. 2, line 66, and Appendix A, as teaching the limitation of presenting a list of industries and allowing selection of an industry from the list of industries. Appendix A presents a sample response to an associate that wants to enroll in the associate program, and does not teach or suggest "an industry" or "a list of industries." The paragraph from col. 2, line 66, to col. 3, line 7, discusses an on-line shopping cart that allows a customer to select

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products from multiple different sites, and then to perform a single check out to purchase all of the selected products. This passage does not teach or suggest an industry or a list of industries. The rejection itself simply states that one can select products from multiple different sites. Office Action, p. 4, lines 1-3.

Bezos teaches offering products from multiple different sites, which at most may suggest different companies, or "associates," as Bezos calls them. Each of the multiple different sites may each be associated with a different associate or a different company, but this does not teach or suggest "an industry" or presenting a "list of industries." Presenting a company web-site is very different from presenting an industry or "a list of industries." Displaying a company web-site does not teach or suggest displaying a list consisting of industries associated with a client. Thus, Bezos does not teach or suggest the claimed step of "presenting on a computer-ser interface a list consisting of industries associated with the client."

Without an express or even suggested listing of industries, no selection of an industry can be made. Thus, Bezos also does not teach or suggest the step of "allowing selection of an industry from the list of industries." Accordingly, Bezos does not teach or suggest at least these two steps of Claim 1. By the same argument, Bezos does not teach or suggest similar limitations of Claims 7 and 13.

Bezos does not teach or suggest the step of searching for information relating to the client and the selected industry

The rejection cites Bezos, Figs. 10b-10c, and col. 11, lines 50-62, as teaching this step of the method. The passage in col. 11 discusses selecting an item, such as a book, by clicking on a computer-image icon, linking to the associated merchant web-site, and thus initiating referral transaction processing. The associate's web-site may include multiple catalog pages and multiple different products sold by the merchant. Fig. 10b illustrates in full size an icon for a book, while Fig. 10c illustrates a shopping cart into which a buyer has "placed" two items for purchase.

This passage and the figures may relate to searching for information relating to an item, but they do not teach or suggest searching for information relating to a client or

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to a selected industry. The passage refers to Internet-based shopping, while the figures refer to books on cooking and skiing. Bezos does not teach or suggest searching for information relating to a client, or to a selected industry. Thus, Bezos also does not teach or suggest at least this additional step of Claim 1, and does not teach or suggest similar limitations for Claims 7 and 13.

Bezos also does not teach or suggest the step of preparing a dossier

The rejection cites Bezos, Fig. 10c and accompanying text (col. 15, lines 36-60) as teaching this step. As mentioned above, Fig. 10c depicts a shopping cart into which a user has "placed" an order for two books. The passage in col. 15 describing Fig. 10c states that the customer may place items into the "shopping cart" and may then use a "proceed to checkout" hyperlink that allows the customer to select items to complete the transaction. These items include specifying payment information, shipping information, and other information needed to process the order.

Fig. 10c and the passage in col. 15, buying books and proceeding to checkout, do not teach or suggest the claim step of "preparing the dossier utilizing the information found during the searching, wherein the dossier comprises information relevant to the selected industry, the client and the proposal, and further comprises information concerning experienced people, prior documents, and past projects pertaining to the proposal." Thus, Bezos also does not teach or suggest this additional step of Claim 1, or similar limitations of Claims 7 and 13.

Applicants submit that the rejections of Claims 1, 7 and 13 are overcome because Bezos does not teach or suggest at least four of the limitations of the claims. Claims depending from Claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable because they depend from allowable claims.

In addition, Bezos does not teach or suggest many of the limitations of claims depending from Claims 1, 7 and 13. For example, Claims 2 and 8 recite presenting an alternate list of industries not associated with the client. The rejection cites Bezos, col. 1, lines 62-66, as teaching this limitation. The passage discusses referral links, in which

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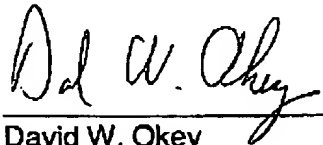
the associate's catalogue documents have product-specific hyperlinks to allow potential customers to link to the associate's Web-site to initiate purchases of these products. This passage discusses products associated with an associated merchant, but there is no teaching or suggestion of an industry, a list of industries, or an alternate list of industries not associated with a client. Thus, Bezos does not teach or suggest the limitations of Claims 2 and 8.

Similar arguments may be made for the remaining dependent claims, which are allowable in any case because they depend from allowable claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 15, 17-19, and 21-27.

4. Claims 20 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,141 to Jeffrey Bezos et al. ("Bezos"), and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,529,911 to Thomas Mielenhausen ("Mielenhausen"). Claims 20 and 28 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable Claims 1 and 4. The Examiner is respectfully request to withdraw the rejection of Claims 20 and 28.

5. Applicants have amended claims and have shown that the reference does not teach or suggest the claims of the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendment, to withdraw the rejections and to grant allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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